

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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A. General:

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On 29 September, the exercises of the Third Shock Army in the Letzling Heath area were terminated. In early October, there were additional divisional exercises in the areas of Justerbog, Wittenberg, Cottbus, and Weisswasser. There was apparently a major exercise of the Eighth Guards Army in the area south of Jena-Ohrdruf.

B. Soviet Dispositions:

1. Eighth Guards Army:

After the 20th Guards Mechanized Division returned to its post from Ohrdruf on 24 September, there were the following indications of the beginning of fall exercises: On 28 and 29 September, tank units were reported going by road through Weissenfels toward Erfurt; there were two additional shipments allegedly going in the same direction. Between 1 and 4 October, nine shipments, with artillery guns, howitzers, and anti-aircraft guns went from Rostock to Poessneck. On 2 and 3 October, three shipments, with medium anti-aircraft guns, went from Wustrow to Goeschwitz south of Jena. Prior to 3 October, the 29th Guards Motorized Rifle Corps from Naumburg was still absent from its post. On 3 October, the bulk of the corps of the Naumburg Signal Battalion departed toward Jena.

2. Third Shock Army:

On 24 and 25 September, upon an assembly after 19 September, there was a movement from the Altengrabow-Wiesenburg area toward Barby. On 28 September, there was an enveloping attack from the direction southwest of Magdeburg toward Letzling Heath. On 29 September, the exercises terminated in Letzling Heath. No river crossings were observed north of Magdeburg. The participating units included the following: Army troops and both corps of the Third Shock Army, the Second Guards Anti-aircraft Artillery Division, the 36th Bridge-building Regiment of the GSFG, an amphibious unit from Eberswalde, the

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34th Artillery Division, the Sixth Artillery Division with three brigades and the bulk of the Fourth Guards Anti-tank Brigade. After 3 October, all units were back at their posts.

3. First Guards Mechanized Army:

Between 25 and 26 September, the exercises near Muehlberg, which included river-crossings from east to west, terminated. The participating units included the following: Army troops and the Ninth Tank Division on the eastern bank; the Eighth Guards Mechanized Division on the western bank and the 11th Guards Tank Division (location undetermined). There is a possible connection between these exercises and the forces which, between 19 and 24 September, went to the Weisswasser area on approximately 60 trains from the area of the First Guards Mechanized Army and the Ninth Mechanized Division.

4. Third Guards Mechanized Army:

Prior to 2 October, the Seventh Guards Tank Division returned to Dessau from exercises in the Jueterbog-Wittenberg area. The movement included 16 shipments from Wittenberg-Pratau and nine shipments from Jueterbog. On 1 October, there were indications, including loadings in Cottbus, that the Ninth Mechanized Division was beginning exercises. On 4 October, approximately 100 tanks, 120 guns and anti-aircraft guns, more than 200 armored personnel carriers, and approximately 500 trucks were in the Jueterbog area. These shipments came from the direction of Neidehof through Neuhof and were en route toward Mehlendorf. An engineer column, which came from the direction of Luckenwalde, joined this shipment on Highway Number 101. Between 6 and 7 October, eight shipments, with units of the Third Guards Mechanized Army, were observed coming from Wittenberg and Pratau and en route towards Falkenberg. Motor-vehicle numbers of the Ninth Mechanized Division with changed prefix letters were observed. The units came from the area of Zahna.

5. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army:

Between 1 and 5 October, the Sixth Guards Mechanized Division held exercises in the Templin area. Between 1 and 5 October, there were at least 11 shipments of the 10th Guards Tank Division observed going from Potsdam to the Cottbus-Peitz area. These shipments were expected to return by 10 October.

6. Fourth Artillery Corps:

Between 1 and 2 October, two shipments of the 25th Rocket-launcher Brigade, with 48 rocket launchers of the new type, were observed going through Brandenburg en route toward the south. It is possible that the brigade participated in the exercises of the Eighth Guards Army or the 10th Guards Tank Division.

7. RBD Cottbus:

Between 3 and 5 October, six to eight troop trains came from the direction of Falkenburg through Ruhland and were en route towards Hoyerswerda.¹

C. Arrival of Weapons:

On 13 September, one shipment with 41 x 152 mm field howitzers and eight DUKW amphibious vehicles went from Frankfurt/Oder to Altenhain.

D. KVP:

- (a) Joint fall exercises with Soviet units in Saxony allegedly began on 1 October.
- (b) In late September, three-year servicemen were being discharged by Border Police Bereitschaft Hildburghausen.

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(c) On 12 September, two KVP shipments, with 14 x 76-mm. guns, two SU guns, and 30 trucks, went from Erfurt to Zwickau. On 16 September elements of these units returned. Between 1 and 25 September, the bulk of the Strausberg Anti-aircraft Artillery Regiment was at the Zingst firing range and the Altwarp Anti-aircraft Artillery Regiment was at Kuslungsborn near Wustrow. After 26 September, artillery units from Glogow were presumably holding firing practices at the training grounds east of Klietz. On 26 September, a KVP shipment, with 12 T-34's, two SU guns, and 10 armored personnel carriers was observed at the Roederau railroad station. On 27 September, a KVP shipment went from Justerbog to Falkenburg.

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1 [Redacted] Comment: These movements presumably included the return of shipments of the Ninth Mechanized Division as well as shipments to the exercise area of the 10th Guards Tank Division.

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